



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4270)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-4154)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence and self introduction of all present.

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the September 10, 2014 Minutes. (14-4155)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representative Reports for September 17, 2014:

- Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)
- Monthly Report

- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Monthly Report

- Internal Services Department (ISD)
- Monthly Report

- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Monthly Report

- Probation Department (PD)
- Monthly Report

- Sheriff's Department
- Monthly Report
 - Measures that are being discussed to ensure safe voter access in the upcoming November 2014 voter registration and election process (14-4156)

Auditor Controller (AC):

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the months of July and August 2014:

The were 51 Total calls from the following:

- Youth callers - 33
- Adult callers - 18

There were 74 calls related to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information (some calls have multiple referrals)

- DCFS – Social Worker - 11
- DCFS - Ombudsman - 3
- DCFS - Child Protection Hotline - 5
- DCFS - OHCMD - 3
- Foster Care ombudsman - 2
- Community Care Licensing - 7

• General Information	-	16
• Alameda County	-	1
• Department of Mental Health	-	1
• Group Home Providers	-	12
• San Bernardino County	-	3
• Contra Costa County	-	1
• Probation	-	6

There were 14 calls relating to the category of Personal Rights and 15 calls that were classified as Other.

Ms. Day also reported that the AC continues to do outreach and visited five group home sites during July and August 2014. Furthermore, she shared copies of AC Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual report for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2014 with the Commission.

Ms. Day responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Department of Mental Health (DMH):

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH continues to expand training its staff in the Core Practice Model - Child/Family Teaming, to ensure that staff have the necessary tools to better engage families with children in group homes. The model is a formalized way of incorporating families into the mental health treatment process of their children.

Lastly, she reported that DMH was authorized to release more funds under the Affordable Care Act to providers to provide more mental health services to the children in the group homes who require mental health services.

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS):

Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, Out of Home Care Management Division, Group Home Performance Management, reported that during the month of August 2014 there were a total of 637 AWOLs and the Child Abuse Hotline received a total of 16 referrals in the following categories:

• Emotional Abuse	-	1
• General Neglect	-	9
• Physical Abuse	-	6

During the same reporting period, no referrals were substantiated and 10 referrals were closed in the following categories:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| • General Neglect | - | 4 |
| • Physical Abuse | - | 5 |
| • Sexual Abuse | - | 1 |

Ms. David-Shirley also reported that McKinley Children's Center Group Home was placed on Administrative hold on August 22, 2014 due to concerns regarding excessive AWOLs and the management of the facility. She also reported that a meeting is scheduled with DCFS, Community Care Licensing and the provider on Friday, September 19, 2014; and DCFS will continue the hold until a Corrective Action Plan is in place and the provider is able to hire staff trained to handle the facility.

Commissioner Grills expressed the Commission's interest in knowing whether DCFS is looking at the issue of AWOLs as a systematic problem, and conducting any trend analysis in reference AWOLs, including their gender, ethnicity and the geographic location of group homes; and the possibility that the children are not really AWOLs, instead they may be caught up in situations that they are not equipped to handle or should have to handle.

Ms. David-Shirley stated that she will contact Mr. Eric Ball of DCFS to discuss what data he may have regarding the Commission's inquiry and then report back the findings to the Commission. She also reported that Masada group home is closed and Little Peoples World group home is on a termination hold.

Commissioners Grills and Burton expressed their concerns regarding the dosage, combination, type and amount of medication that is being given to the children at Fred Jefferson group home. The Commissioners asked that DCFS look into the situation to ensure the children are not being over-medicated.

Ms. Shirley stated that she would look into the situation and report back.

Commissioner Burton asked if DCFS could also look into providing assistance to Little Peoples World group home (Ms. David-Shirley - will look into seeing if DCFS might be able to provide some Technical Assistance).

Probation Department (PD):

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of August 2014 as follows:

There were 125 AWOLs

• Youth involved	-	108
• Remain AWOL	-	38
• Returned to group homes	-	53
• Youth AWOL more than once	-	17
• Placed in Juvenile Hall	-	16
• Camp Community Placement	-	1

Ms. Pease also reported that Children Are Our Future Group Home (all sites) were placed on an Investigative Hold on August 6, 2014. The Investigative Hold was released on September 1, 2014 after the implementation of a Corrective Action Plan. Lastly, she provided the Commission with a detailed report of the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding AWOLs and stated that PD group home monitoring report for 2012-13 is completed. Ms. Pease will forward a copy of the monitoring report to Commission staff for distribution to the Commissioners.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Camp Gonzales, reported that the PD is working on collaborating with Los Angeles Trade Technical College to bring an educational program to Dorothy Kirby Center Probation Camp. The program will allow the children at Dorothy Kirby to earn college credits. He also reported that PD has identified 17 candidates to participate in the college program which is scheduled to begin October 2014. He further reported that Camp Kilpatrick is currently closed and that demolition of the camp will begin soon. The new camp Kilpatrick is scheduled to re-open in January 2018.

Mr. Varela will provide a current copy of the roster of PD camps.

Michelle Guymon, Director, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Project, PD, provided an overview of the PD efforts in preventing the exploitation of children. She reported that PD and the Juvenile Court applied for and received a grant in 2011.

As of January 2012, the Star Court was created in Compton, CA., with funds received from the grant. Catherine Pratt, Commissioner, Compton Juvenile Courts, presides over the Star Court and PD created a Child Trafficking Unit from the grant as well. She also reported that there are specialized Probation staff that handles and provides Wrap Around services to those children who were identified as Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children.

She further reported that there were funds allocated to provide preventive services and out of those funds the PD rolled out the "My Life, My Choice" Curriculum in many group homes. Funds were also used to do outreach to various juvenile halls, group homes and training staff, service care providers, different County department staff, advocates and community care providers and to date PD has trained over seven thousand persons and training is done every month.

Lastly, she reported that under Star Court's Division 31 standard, the Probation Officers must see the children at least once monthly and face-to-face. PD's Probation Officers see the children once every ten days and have contact with them once every three days via phone or texting. This type of engagement helps to reduce the length of time the children stay AWOL and let them know that someone other than the trafficker cares about their well-being.

Ms. Guymon responded to questions posed by the commission.

Sheriff's Department (SD):

In response to Commissioner Burton's inquiry during the August 20, 2014 Business meeting of what measures are being taken by SD to ensure that County Jail inmates who are eligible to vote, are able to register and vote, Juan D. Martinez, Sergeant, Religious and Volunteer Services Inmate Services Bureau, SD, reported that the SD, in partnership with the County Registrar-Recorder's Office (RR) distributes flyers and post bulletins in County jail facilities to ensure that those inmates who are eligible and are interested in voting are provided the opportunity to vote. The SD also posts bulletins that explain the different ballot measures at least one day prior to the election. The ballot boxes are sealed and then transported to the RR Office by Sergeant Martinez.

Sergeant Martinez responded to questions posed by the Commission.

4. Chairperson's Report on various items for September 17, 2014. (14-4157)

There was no Chairperson's report presented.

5. Treasurer's Report for September 17, 2014. (14-4158)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$260.15.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for September 17, 2014. (14-4159)

Staff reported that the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) has received a letter from the Los Angeles County Commission for Women (CW) inviting the SBC Commissioners to attend the CW November 3, 2014 meeting and present on SBC's role and outreach efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of women and girls in the County lock-up detention facilities, probation camps and group homes.

Also, CW is looking at possibly collaborating with SBC, as well as other County Commissions in improving and ensuring that quality service is being provided to the incarcerated women and girls in Los Angeles County, and to see if there are any redundancies or overlapping of services that are being provided by the various County Commissions.

Commissioners Bigby, Burton and Grills accepted the CW invitation and stated that they will attend the November 3, 2014 meeting.

Chairperson Montaña and Vice Chairperson Bacio stated that due to previously scheduled obligations, they are unable to accept the invitation.

Commissioner Andrews stated that he would like to read the invitation letter before deciding whether to accept the invitation.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on September 17, 2014. (14-4160)

In Compliance:

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- David and Margaret Home "Corporate/Site" - (Third Street, La Verne, CA.), on September 11, 2014.

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 11, 2014 to September 16, 2014. (14-4161)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Starview Adolescent Center - (West 226th Street, Torrance, CA.), on September 15, 2014
- Dream Home Care, Inc. #1 - (Gardenia Avenue, Long Beach, CA.), on September 16, 2014

Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Bigby visited:

- Camp Rocky (Probation) - (North Sycamore Canyon Road, San Dimas, CA.), on September 16, 2014

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4162)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4163)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the SBC Business Meeting of September 17, 2014. (14-4165)

There being no further business, the Business meeting of September 17, 2014 Business meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

DRAFT